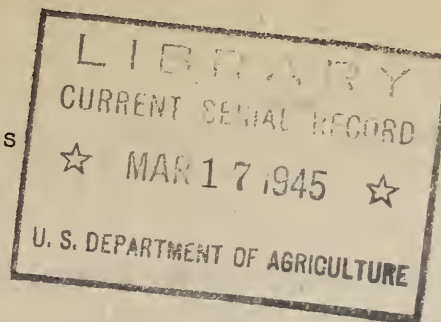


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
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Western Region



FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS  
Week Ending January 26, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Potatoes - Military requirements on the Pacific Coast have continued to take the majority of the available #1 potatoes, and supplies of other grades are becoming less plentiful. Prices have remained at ceiling on all grades.

Comparative figures on potato production, and civilian population in the Western Region (nine western states) show that late crop potato production for 1944 has increased 13 percent above that for 1940, and civilian population for the same years has increased 10.3 percent. In the three Pacific Coast states, population has increased 13.2 percent without giving consideration to the military personnel.

Carlot movement of potatoes the past week declined only slightly nationally, but 292 cars for Idaho resulting in weekly totals of 4,709 cars and 674 cars respectively, compared with 4,795 and 966 cars for the previous week. Season's totals to date are, Idaho 24,722 cars, U. S. 190,813 cars, compared with last season to same date, Idaho 24,514, U. S. 206,359 cars.

The I. C. C. order of January 22, continues in effect, and was amended to include Arizona, California, New Jersey and Delaware to destination seed states.

Lettuce - FOB shipping point prices compared; 1944, January 27, 4s and 5s mostly \$3.20 per crate, and 1945 date same size mostly \$2.50 per crate. Wholesale prices closed the past week at mostly \$2.25 to \$3.00 per crate of 4s and 5s. Last year the wholesale prices were mostly \$1.00 to \$1.50 per crate higher for the same date.

Carlot shipments for the week from the Western Region were 1,718 cars, and in the U. S. 1,727 cars, bringing the season's total to 5,640 cars for the Western Region, and 20,288 cars for the U. S. Last season to the same date the U. S. total was 18,145.

Harvesting in the Brawley section is now entering the peak of the season, and most fields of this crop will be about completed within another two weeks.

Onions - Supplies have continued plentiful, and daily shipments have averaged 125 cars during the past week. The wholesale markets have held strong, and prices have remained near ceiling. Prices mostly quoted at the close of the week on Sweet Spanish were \$1.35 to \$1.50 per 50 pound bag in the southwest, and \$1.50 to \$1.85 in the northwest. "Browns" from Saugus, California, were quoted on the Los Angeles Market at \$1.75 to \$1.90 per bag of 50 pounds.

DAIRY AND POULTRY:

Butter - Despite heavier overall milk production this year than last, butter production and supplies remain very much below last year and present demand in all sections, and particularly in the areas of recent heavy increased civilian and military population. Rail traffic congestion and low temperatures in the northeast

have materially disrupted distribution in that area. In the San Francisco area supplies for civilians were reported to be as much as 25 percent below those of last year at the same date.

WFA has estimated total supplies for the January-February-March period at 392.5 million pounds, with about 344.5 million pounds going to civilians, the balance to military (29.8 million pounds) and lend lease (18.2 million pounds). Allocation per person will amount to about 10 pounds, compared with 12 pounds in 1944, and 16.5 pounds prewar.

Eggs - Production is slowly picking up, yet receipts continue below demand. Most pronounced in the Pacific Northwest where receipts are now about equaling demand, but not yet heavy enough to ship to outside areas. Supply and demand this year is directly opposite to that of a year ago when heavy supplies were entering storage.

Poultry - All classes of poultry reached the western wholesale markets in light supplies during the past week, and demand was much heavier than available supplies. The OPA reduction in ceiling prices on eggs has apparently made no change on poultry offerings, although increased beef supplies may tend to ease the demand for poultry meat.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle - Receipts on the four western markets dropped, the past week, to 78.8 percent of those for the week previous, resulting 18,725 head. On the twelve principal markets, receipts were 218,400 head, 4.9 percent under receipts for the previous week.

Top prices for the week on the western markets were \$14.25 to \$16.00, averaging slightly under those for the previous week.

Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, Texas, Kansas, North Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado are points of origin for the stock now being received on the western markets.

Hogs - Receipts of 291,700 head on the twelve principal markets were down 7.3 percent from the previous week, and 55.3 percent under receipts for the same period last year. On the four western markets receipts were 9,579 head, 68.6 percent of the previous week.

Prices moved to ceiling in all western markets not already pressing ceiling prices.

Sheep: Receipts on the markets showed gains over the previous week; the four western markets gained 7.8 percent to total 17,638 head, and the twelve principal markets received 262,000 head, a gain of 1.9 percent over the previous week and 19.8 percent over the same week a year ago.

Top prices received on the western markets during the week ranged from \$13.00 to \$16.00 for full woolled stock.

#### GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Wheat - Cash wheat, in the middlewestern markets remained relatively steady over the past week because of small offerings. California markets showed little price change, but the Pacific Northwest reflected lower prices and lighter offerings.



Prices at Portland were the same for Soft White, Western red and ordinary protein Hard red Winter, \$1.54 per bu. basis number 1 grade in bulk.

CCC support price was lowered approximately 2 cents from the price of the week previous to \$1.53.

Higher livestock prices and slightly lower grain prices have resulted in more favorable feeding ratios than in January 1944. Comparative figures indicate that in January of this year the price of hogs enabled them to buy 7.5 percent more corn than in January of last year, and 10.3 percent more than for the January ten year average (1933-42), but only 83 percent as much as in 1943. Steers, in January of this year could buy 3.9 percent more corn than a year ago, but only 89.9 percent as much as for the ten year average.

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